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SUBJECT Secretary of State, George Shultz Interview

JIM LEHRER: Thirty-nine Americans are free after 17 days as hostages in Beirut. They are now in West Germany and should be back in the United States tomorrow. Everyone claims there was no deal, but today, 24 hours after the Americans were released, the Israeli Cabinet agreed to set free 300 of the 732 Lebanese the TWA hijackers wanted released. Also today, the United States announced it will move immediately to close down Beirut International Airport to make it off limit to terrorists.

We talk about all of this now in a newsmaker interview with the U.S. official most in charge of resolving the situation, the Secretary of State, George Shultz.

Mr. Secretary, welcome.

SECRETARY OF STATE GEORGE SHULTZ: Thank you.

LEHRER: First the action against the Beirut International Airport. Spell out what the purpose of that is, please, sir.

SECRETARY SHULTZ: Well, the purpose is to place off limits, internationally, that airport until the people of Beirut put terrorists off limits. That airport has become a kind of safe haven, as a result of the way in which it has received planes and received the hijackers. And so we want to place it off limits.

LEHRER: Well now, what would they have to do to make it off limits to terrorists?

SECRETARY SHULTZ: Well, first of all, they have to show

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